



WESTERN CONNECTICUT  
HEALTH NETWORK

DANBURY HOSPITAL • NEW MILFORD HOSPITAL



Written Testimony of Steve Rosenberg  
Chief Financial Officer  
Western CT Health Network  
(Danbury, Norwalk and New Milford Hospitals)  
for the Planning and Development Committee  
Friday, March 21, 2014

***I am writing to oppose of HB 5583, An Act Concerning The Payment Of Real Property Taxes By Certain Institutions Of Higher Learning And Hospital Facilities.***

Connecticut, in addition to states across the US, enacted a property tax exemption for its hospitals recognizing the critical safety net they provide for their patients and community. Our mission reflects our responsibility to improve the health of our community in partnership with those that we serve. In fulfilling that mission, our three hospitals treat all-comers, day and night, every day of every year, regardless of a patient's complexities, status or ability to pay for care received.

Our hospitals invested more than \$100 million in community benefit initiatives to ensure that people are cared for and community needs are addressed. This commitment doesn't waver despite unprecedented change in our industry, increasing financial pressures from State and Federal cuts, and, a prolonged soft economy in Connecticut affecting our revenues.

Connecticut enacted the PILOT program to support cities and towns. We understand municipalities are under financial strain, and we support the Governor's efforts to increase funding to the PILOT program, which will provide them with additional needed relief.

I ask that you keep the current PILOT funding structure in place and oppose HB 5583. While HB 5583 may be well intended, it puts another layer of reporting and process on the backs of already strained hospitals. It requires an additional financial burden at a time when hospitals have been cut to the quick.

I welcome any opportunity to participate in a solution-oriented discussion of alternatives and would make myself and others from the Western CT Health Network available for that discussion.

I urge you to oppose HB 5583 and fully fund the PILOT Program. Thank you for your consideration.

Steve Rosenberg  
Chief Financial Officer  
Western CT Health Network